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DEPARTMENT FOR AF/E-JWIEGERT,OES/PCI-MGERDIN,OES/STC-
TBURNS,OES/SAT-FECHAVARRIA,EEB/IFD/OMA-JWINKL ER AND EEB/CBA-
DWINSTEAD

DEPARTMENT PASS TO USAID JEFF HUMBER

USTDA KATHRYN DORMINEY

DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC FOR ITA MARIA RIVERO

DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC FOR REBECCA KLEIN

DEPT OF ENERGY FOR TSPERL

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SUBJECT: OCT-NOV REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT NEWSLETTER, EAST AFRICA

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SUMMARY

11. (U) Summary: This Regional Environment Office (REO) eastern Africa newsletter combines reporting from October and November 2009, with an emphasis on energy developments, the latest USG and Africa climate change positions in the run up to Copenhagen, updates on the Nile Basin Initiative, and an article on land degradation in Ethiopia. From climate change to renewable energy development and transboundary watershed management and its implication on food security, Environment-Science-Technology-Health (ESTH) issues are hot topics garnering high-level foreign policy attention. To view a copy of the newsletter online, visit our intranet site: http://addisababa.state.gov/REO_Newsletter/default.asp?fname=2009. End summary.

East Africa Alternative Energy Buzz

¶2. (U) The African Rift Geothermal Risk Mitigation Fund Stakeholders Conference: U.S. Embassy Nairobi Christopher Walton and U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa Moges Worku attended the African Rift Geothermal Risk Mitigation Fund (ARGeo) Stakeholders Conference at the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya on November 25-26, 2009. The ARGeo project was created in 2005, but is only just nearing the implementation phase with the Lake Asaal geothermal project in Djibouti. ARGeo's premise is to provide insurance for consortiums interested in drilling geothermal wells. If the well is unusable, then the insurance will defray part of the cost of the drilling (one well at 60; 75% if multiple wells are drilled). If the drilling is successful, than no money is spent and the money can be used to provide insurance for another drilling cycle. The ARGeo project has approximately \$11 million for the insurance portion and \$7 million for technical assistance. Approximately \$13 million is from the World Bank and \$4 million from UNEP. Each project's insurance could consume up to \$5 million so ARGeo can only fund two failures before running out of money. Any remaining technical assistance money could still be spent.

¶3. (U) WB-GEF, Germany, and Iceland Say USG Needs to Step Up: The conference was contentious with targeted comments against the USG for a lack of commitment to the ARGeo fund. Christopher and Moges noted that their presence at the meeting was as observers and they were not authorized to state commitments. They highlighted the USG contributions to date and noted a desire to stay engaged with the intent to commit in the future as opportunities arise and resources become available, particularly as it is just coming online in the

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implementation phase and has the potential to play a key role in further developing geothermal resources in the region.

¶4. (U) Without Commitment, USG to Lose Seat at Steering Committee: Representatives from the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Iceland, and Germany were not pleased with USG responses and concluded that the USG seat on the Steering Committee would be in jeopardy if commitments are not forthcoming. The Iceland representative read a 2005 document that cited a USG commitment of \$1.3million to the ARGeo fund. DoE clarified to the Regional Environment Office (REO) in Addis Ababa and GEF officials in early September 2009 that the USG never made a financial commitment to support the ARGeo fund with a specific figure. Rather, we have made in-kind contributions and our contributions to the GEF fund serve as our financial commitment to the ARGeo. Christopher and Moges reiterated this message at the ARGeo meeting. Other countries took issue with the accuracy of this 2005 GEF document as well.

¶5. (U) Poor planning: This meeting was announced with just over two weeks advanced notice and took place on the Thanksgiving holiday. Regardless, USG representatives were able to attend. The World Bank Chair of the meeting reported that Italy and France were expected to come to the meeting, yet they did not show up. The Japanese, another key player in ARGeo funding, did not respond to the last minute invitation.

¶6. (U) Comment: The lack of advanced planning for this meeting speaks volumes, with key players (Italy, France, Japan, and New Zealand) not in attendance. Key GEF officials knew the USG position in advance and should not have been surprised. Excluding the USG from future meetings and the Steering Committee would be short-sighted. REO recommends that the USG should continue engagement: the ARGeo project has buy-in from all of the countries in the region and ARGeo offers a platform for cooperation and data sharing between countries in the East African region. The U.S., through many activities, was instrumental in bringing ARGeo to the GEF for funding and we should not let others usurp full credit for the initiative. End comment.

ACROSS ETHIOPIA

¶7. (U) Is Ethiopia's Energy Sector Serious about Attracting Foreign Investment? Positive Signs: United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) desk officer for eastern Africa and a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) consultant recently visited Ethiopia to explore potential

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opportunities for U.S. investment. REO requested the USTDA visit given recent developments that suggest the Government of Ethiopia's (GoE) willingness to open its energy-sector to outside investment. For example, the Minister of Mines and Energy, during a meeting with Charge Meece and DCM Mushingui, noted that the GoE is considering permitting various power purchasing agreements (PPAs) and other modalities conducive to attracting outside investment in the electricity sector. Moreover, a September 2009 conference on how to set up/structure PPAs was held in Addis, the GoE hosted a June 2009 High Level Decision Makers Conference on Geothermal in Addis that focused on the need enact reforms to generate investment (along a KenGen model), and Ethiopia also hosted a December 2008 energy investment meeting in Addis all touted Ethiopia's intention to attract much-needed foreign investment into its floundering energy sector.

¶8. (U) USTDA Visit: REO accompanied the USTDA official on her energy sector meetings with the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MoME), the Geological Survey of Ethiopia (GSE), the Ethiopia Electrical Agency (EEA), and the Ethiopia Electric and Power Company (EEPCo). Discussions were informative and the USTDA official noted a potential to fund small-scale capacity building projects. USTDA, however, surmised that larger-scale funding would be premature in a pre-drilling environment, particularly given that EEPCo officials informed the USTDA official that they currently seek concessional financing for energy projects (similar to Japan's arrangement at the Aluto expansion).

¶9. (U) USAID AIP: While EEPCo's assertion seemed to contradict signals from other branches of the GoE involved in the energy sector, a USAID consultant from Nextant (the implementing arm of USAID's Washington-based Africa Infrastructure Project-AIP) visited Ethiopia on the heels of the USTDA visit and received similar information regarding concessional financing. According to the readout of the USAID-AIP visit, the consultant noted "the government wants to see the private sector complement public resources but it prefers concessionary financing for the public sector to take the lead, for now." There may be room for some small-scale USAID-AIP engagement, however, with the consultant reporting that he will "seek to identify the way to proceed for future cooperation." To add to the mix, a revised feed-in tariff in draft form appears to leave the door open for private investors to sell electricity to grid, although the language remains vague and the bill has not yet passed Parliament.

¶10. (U) Comment: The good news is that, despite conflicting messages, there appears to be slow progress. Like an enormous elephant that is just starting to move, sheer inertia is

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working in the favor of establishing a forward momentum after those first tentative steps. End Comment.

¶11. (U) REO PodCast: REO eastern Africa joined forces with the Africa Media Hub in Pretoria, South Africa to generate a podcast focused on the environmental issues in East Africa ahead of the December Copenhagen climate change meeting. One of the Africa Media Hub's key mandates is to increase the number of USG voices in the African Sphere. They accomplish this mainly through media interviews or self recorded podcasts

which they then distribute to media in Africa. For more information about the program, or to request an interview to promote your issues, contact Wangui Muchiri at Muchiriwe@state.gov. To listen to the REO podcast, visit: usgreenafrica.state.gov or <http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/mediahub.htm> 1.

¶12. (U) America Recycles Day: OES hosted a Recycling Exhibit at the State Department in Washington, DC on November 21, highlighting U.S. embassy recycling efforts throughout the world. To support the exhibit, embassies provided posters, slide shows, and videos. The Exhibit was filmed and will be part of a BNET presentation on recycling tentatively scheduled to be aired the second week of December. Due to the success, FSI has requested that the exhibit come to them. U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa, Ethiopia submitted copies of two posters, highlighting our plastic bottle and paper recycling programs.

¶13. (U) Pervasive Land Degradation Documented in Ethiopia and Food Security Implications: The Regional Environment Specialist (RES) evaluated areas within the Ethiopian highlands following Ethiopia's rainy season for three consecutive years, completing a study that cites unsustainable activities such as over-cultivation, overgrazing, deforestation, and farming on steep slopes with erodible soils have combined over the years to result in pervasive land degradation.

¶14. (U) With over 80% of Ethiopia's population involved in agriculture, the GoE's economy is largely driven by and dependent upon agriculture. Although government officials pay tribute to the need for agricultural reform, patterns of land degradation and deforestation continue throughout Ethiopia despite government claims to the contrary. Studies conducted by the Environmental Economics Policy Forum for Ethiopia (EEPFE) have produced similar findings of poor agricultural practices and neglect that support the RES study. Given direct linkages to food insecurity, water insecurity, energy shortages, and economic losses, the adverse impacts of land degradation hamper efforts to promote poverty alleviation and fuel economic growth; two U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa Mission

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Strategic Plan priorities. Without vital reforms designed to address soil and water conservation, the agricultural sector will continue to fail to produce, famine will accompany droughts, and agricultural development-based plans will remain ineffective.

Please visit the RES photo gallery to access pictures of the RES three-year study: F:\Regional Environment\Admin\Issues\Environmental management\Ethiopia\Monitoring Watershed Processes

¶15. (U) Embassy Co-hosts Event with Lester Brown, Earth Policy Institute Founder: During his International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) in the U.S. in the summer 2009, the Ethiopian Forum for Environment (FFE) Director Negusu Aklihi met the Earth Policy Institute founder and MacArthur Award winner Dr. Lester Brown and invited him to be the featured speaker at a High Level Meeting in Addis Ababa on October 26. Dr. Brown spoke on the topic of his latest book, "Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilizations." The Embassy co-sponsored the conference and Chargé d'affaires Ambassador Roger Meece delivered opening remarks. The approximately 40 audience members included senior officials from the GOE, representatives of NGOs and academics in the environmental field, as well as foreign diplomats.

¶16. (U) Dr. Brown is an inspirational speaker on the topic of environmental sustainability and climate change. Dr. Brown's long experience as an environmentalist and researcher was evident in his ability to chart progress in the development of renewable resources and awareness by governments and citizens alike of the importance of environmental issues. He was surprisingly upbeat about U.S. policy direction over the last nine months on environmental issues, citing 1) the Obama

Administration's announcement in February of new fuel economy standards; 2) President Obama's instruction to the Department of Energy to develop regulations on appliance efficiencies; 3) the substantial incentives in the stimulus package for investment in renewable energies and clean technologies; 4) the emission cutting goals that will be set for the federal government; and 5) the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator's request to businesses for annual carbon footprint measurements.

¶17. (U) Dr. Brown posited that U.S. carbon emissions may have actually peaked two years ago, noting that the nine percent emissions reduction of the last two years cannot be attributed to the economic slowdown alone. He pointed out that 22 U.S. coal-fired power plants are slated to close this year, and that oil-dependent Texas is now the leading generator of electricity from wind power. The big question, according to Dr. Brown, is whether the U.S. and the world will be able to

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cut our carbon emissions quickly enough to preserve our "civilization as we know it."

¶18. (U) Ethiopian-American Returns to Birthplace and Makes a Difference: During a recent Watershed Processes Assessment trip to the Central and Northern Ethiopia highlands, the Regional Environment Specialist (RES) had a chance to visit a reforestation project run by a private individual, Ato Gashaw Tahir, in the Western Amhara Region. Gashaw was born in the area but lived in the U.S. for 30 years. When he recently returned to his place of birth, he was astounded by the extent of deforestation that had taken place in the area that he remembers as having abundant forest cover. Deciding to act, he shared a reforestation plan with the local administration who then granted him land. Using his own finances, he then raised over a million seedlings and planted more than 40 hectares (99 acres) of degraded land in 2006.

¶19. (U) After three years of management, his plantation sites have turned into promising forest areas which many view as typical examples of what could be done to reverse the pervasive land degradation process on the Ethiopian highlands, even at the individual level. Gashaw also encouraged local institutions such as schools and private individuals to plant trees by supplying them with seedlings free of charge. Due to Gashaw's exemplary community service, he was honored with "Green Hero" 2009 awards at both Federal and Regional levels.

Environment Meetings/Workshops in Ethiopia

¶20. (U) Peace Corps Environment: Peace Corps Ethiopia is in the process of expanding its activities by starting a new sector in environment to complement its existing Health program. Peace Corps' involvement in the health sector has played a contributory role toward the realization of Ethiopia's Millennium Development goals in the health sector, but the country remains behind in reaching the goals within the Environment sector. Consequently, in September 2010 Peace Corps Ethiopia plans to launch the Conservation and Natural Resource Management (CNRM) sector based on the demand to fill the gaps within this important and rapidly growing sector. REO will attend the December 22, 2009 stakeholders meeting and offer program development input.

¶21. (U) Colorado State University (CSU) and the National Science Foundation (NSF): CSU and NSF will host two workshops in Addis Ababa, December 18 and 21, 2009. The first is designed to build collaborative networks between U.S. and Ethiopia in areas of research and higher education, while the second will focus on professional training programs in

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Geographic Information Systems (GIS). REO will attend both

workshops and offer input regarding GIS needs throughout the region. REO will also host a dinner with the trainers.

¶22. (U) The Office of Naval Research Science and Technology Workshop: The Office of Naval Research (ONR) is organizing a science and technology workshop in Egypt in January, 2009 along with the Naval Medical Research Unity-3. ONR is focusing first on North Africa and the Middle East, but is starting the process of exploring how to better invest in science and technology research throughout Africa. The meeting is a step toward devising a comprehensive strategy for ONR investment in sub-Saharan Africa, with ONR hoping to identify research projects for investment as a result of the workshop. ONR reached out to both REO eastern Africa and REO Middle East-North Africa for input. In addition to attending the workshop, REO has volunteered to be a presenter, explaining what we do and how we can work together.

WATER MATTERS

¶23. (U) Nile Basin Initiative's 10th Anniversary: REO will attend the Nile Basin Initiative's (NBI) ten-year anniversary ceremony in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, December 6-8, 2009. The celebrations will mark ten years of cooperation and progress in the sustainable management of the Nile River water resources and represents the NBI communication team's efforts to broadcast the Nile success story. The three-day event will bring together government leaders, members of parliament, civil society, media, academia, business community, youth, and development partners, among others for speeches, workshops, and other activities.

¶24. (U) What is there to celebrate? With contentious Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) negotiations in flux, what does the NBI have to celebrate? Over the past decade, the Nile Basin member states have come together to build a knowledge base covering the river, its wetlands and tributaries, and the livelihoods and vulnerabilities of the more than 160 million people who live within the Nile basin. The NBI has mobilized more than \$1 billion in investments to support improved access to energy as well as water resources and environmental services. Of critical importance is the fact that the past decade has seen the emergence of regional thinking and collaborative decision-making among the Nile basin member states, advancing a key objective to promote peace and stability throughout the region.

¶25. (U) Nile Basin Trust Fund Meeting: The Nile Basin Trust Fund (NBTF) donor partners met in Stockholm, Sweden in early

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October to discuss NBI progress and prospects for the future. The general consensus was that NBI projects and programs were progressing on schedule and mostly on target, advancing key technical objectives in a timely manner. Of particular note was the success of Nile-TAC (technical advisory committee) in terms of overcoming regional suspicions and prejudices. For example, the NBI's Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia is staffed by representatives from Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan. In the early days of the NBI, this office was a hotbed of discontent, with staff communicating with their home country more frequently than with each other. Ten years later, and the ENTRO office is a model of cooperation and collaboration, with little evidence of the early-day rivalries. Donor partners are anxious that the politically contentious CFA negotiations taking place at the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) level, however, may have an adverse impact at the technical levels, as evidenced by the results of the First Joint Meeting of the Nile-Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) and the Negotiating Committee of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) that was held in Kampala September 28 and 29.

¶26. (U) Joint Meeting: The joint meeting was convened following a decision of the Nile-COM at their 17th Ordinary

Session held July 27 and 28 in Alexandria, Egypt. Participants were drawn from the nine Nile Basin countries. A UK NBTF colleague reported that the meeting was tense and acrimonious and served no purpose other than to highlight that the gap between upper and lower riparians seems to be widening. The Egyptians, as the Chair, went to the meeting with no new ideas and they refused to sign the agreed minutes at the end of the meeting.

¶27. (U) Moving forward: The World Bank is advising that, at this critical time for the NBI where high levels of government are engaging, it is important that donor countries respect that the present CFA issue is a political matter between sovereign states. Bank officials recommend that donor partners 'stand back, but stand by,' (meaning, refrain from engaging proactively, but be ready to consider reasonable requests for support). The World Bank Nile Team feels the focus at this time should be to continue to support the NBI on the delivery of its programs and projects (meaning, the technical level), stating that "continued progress by the NBI in building a regional institution and delivering investments needs to speak for itself." Donor partners contemplated sending an NBTF communique to the NBI and Nile-COM following the NBTF October meeting, to advance the message that we support continued efforts to reach a unified solution that will institutionalize formal intergovernmental mechanisms for promoting cooperation and coordination within the basin. After much deliberation,

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all agreed to withhold the communique to avoid the risk of basin countries manipulating the communique's text to influence the next Nile-COM meeting scheduled for late February/early March 2010. (Contact REO if you would like to see a copy of the draft communique: Baumanks@state.gov.)

¶28. (U) Nile-COM 2010: The six-month "cool down" period agreed to at the July 2009 Nile-COM meeting in Egypt has not provided a basis for the Nile basin countries to move forward in an inclusive manner regarding the CFA. The upper riparian countries continue to retain their views as expressed by the decisions taken at the Nile-COM meeting in May 2009 in Kinshasa (with the six upper riparians willing to sign the CFA without Egypt and Sudan, effecting an NBI "split"). Egypt and Sudan, however, argue that the Nile-COM meeting in Alexandria in July reversed the decisions previously taken in Kinshasa in May. Yet because no new ideas have been circulated to address the stalemate, another confrontation for a potential "CFA split" at the next Nile-COM meeting looms on the horizon. Egypt, however, appears to be engaging in a frenzied "charm" campaign to win over some of the upper riparians and gain another 6-month respite period. U.S. Embassy Cairo officer covering African affairs reports a recent beef deal between Ethiopia and Egypt. Moreover, Egypt is making overtures throughout the basin to help countries with agricultural development through Nile irrigation schemes (Egypt would be in charge of the development). The U.S. embassy officer in Cairo noted that it's his understanding that this may already be underway in Uganda with Egypt's intent, according to the U.S. embassy Cairo officer, to "pick off" two of the upper riparians (likely Uganda and Tanzania) so that they don't agree to sign the CFA in late February/early March 2010.

¶29. (U) Tekeze Dam Opening Ceremony: On November 14, 2009, the government of Ethiopia celebrated the completion of the government-funded \$350 million Tekeze Hydropower Project in northern Ethiopia. The dedication ceremony took place at the site of the dam on Ethiopia's Tekeze River and attracted foreign and Ethiopian government officials, media and business leaders and included remarks from U.S. Embassy Charge d'affairs, Ambassador Roger Meece. Ambassador Meece praised Ethiopia's commitment to bringing power and a better quality of life to the people of Ethiopia through the development of renewable energy sources, and urged the government to continue diversification from imported petroleum, citing Ethiopia's "staggering amount of potential renewable energy sources that include geothermal, wind, solar, and biofuel as well as

hydro." Other speakers included Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, the Minister of Mines and Energy, the Minister of Trade and Industry, the Director General of the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation, the Chinese Ambassador, and others.

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¶30. (U) Ethiopia is in the throes of dire energy shortages (peaking at 200MW in 2009). The GoE was forced to cut electricity for 14 hours daily for 12 days each month during the summer and early fall 2009; a situation that reportedly cost the country's economy more than 1% of its GDP. Although Ethiopia has 783 MW of grid-based electricity, domestic peak demand has reportedly risen 24% beyond the national utility's supply. By tapping into the significant energy generation potential in the country's rivers, the Tekeze Hydropower Project is designed as a low-cost way to increase the stability and access to light, heat and water for all communities. At 188 meters-high, the Tekeze Hydropower Project is the tallest dam in Africa. It is expected to provide 300 megawatts of clean, renewable power, although it currently is generating 75 MW. GoE officials claim that water levels are sufficient to operate the plant at full capacity, but at those levels, the dam would run out of water before the next rainy season. According to GoE officials, the dam's reservoir should have sufficient levels of water storage to continually run at full capacity after capturing the rains from the 2010 rainy season.

¶31. (U) According the Ethiopia's Minister of Trade and Industry, two other plants, Tana Beles and Gilgel Gibe II, are nearly complete and will begin generating power by March 2010. These, plus Tekeze, will have the combined potential to inject 1,000 megawatts of electricity into the grid and, according to the Minister, will put an end to Ethiopia's black outs beginning in 2010.

CLIMATE CHANGE

¶32. (U) Climate Change Teleconference Outreach: The Deputy Special Envoy for Climate Change, Jonathan Pershing, conducted a climate change outreach teleconference with U.S. ambassadors throughout Africa on November 24, 2009. Discussions focused on the status of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations, the USG vision for Copenhagen, the African position, and to encourage interaction with high-level counterparts in the final weeks before Copenhagen. Pershing circulated the latest White House guidance and Talking Points after the call.

¶33. (U) The African Position on Climate Change: Leading up to the COP-15 climate change meeting in Copenhagen, African nations are ramping up efforts to define a cohesive, continent-wide position on climate change. The intent is to attend the conference with one voice, one delegation, and one message that focuses on mitigation, adaptation, and technology

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transfer.

¶34. (U) One voice, one delegation, one message:
One voice: As Chair of the Conference of African Heads of State and Governments on Climate Change (CAHOSCC, also referred to as the AU Committee of 10), Ethiopian PM Meles was named head of the African delegation in August 2009. One delegation: Meles will represent just over 50 African nations in his role as Head of Delegation in Copenhagen, Denmark, December 7-18, 2009. One message: CAHOSCC is in the process of strengthening and finalizing what amounts to the first AU-sanctioned position on climate change. The African Union's African Common Platform to Copenhagen from the May 2009 Algiers Declaration serves as the platform for the Common African Position.

¶35. (U) Mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer: Mitigation: Africa supports the position that polluter countries must agree to cut emissions by 40% from 1990 levels by 2020 (this echoes the call by "poorer" countries worldwide). Adaptation: On November 17, 2009 in Addis, CAHOSCC agreed on an adaptation sum to demand from the polluter countries; an amount that will compensate for the impact of climate change on the African continent. Although the Committee of Ten announced that this figure is not to be disclosed until negotiations begin in Copenhagen, the likely range will be between \$67-200 billion a year, beginning in ¶2020. Technology Transfer: Africa will request assistance in catching up to the west in the form of technology transfers accompanied by relaxed intellectual property rights.

¶36. (U) Africa's Expectations: PM Meles said on November 17th that Africa wants a treaty to be agreed in Copenhagen but could accept a 'binding political agreement' as a stepping stone to a treaty being agreed upon at a later date. Meles repeatedly stresses that the African position must be heard and taken seriously in Copenhagen and he has stated he will walk out of the negotiations if his delegation's views are marginalized or dismissed. A temporary boycott of talks in Barcelona in November 2009 was testament to the seriousness of this threat, although UK colleagues in Addis Ababa that work closely with the AU climate change team through ClimDev, described the act as an advanced-warning, muscle-flexing tactic in the lead up to Copenhagen; that it was orchestrated to demonstrate both their weight and the extent to which they are organized and prepared to act as a cohesive unit. In the UK assessment, with the Barcelona temporary boycott behind them, the Africa delegation will be prepared to seriously engage in Copenhagen.

¶37. (U) Institute for Security Studies Think Tank Seminar on
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Climate Change and Africa: At a recent seminar on climate change organized by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, speakers articulated their expectations in Copenhagen. EU representatives announced an intent to cut emissions by 20% from 1990 levels by 2020 and called upon others to do the same. The Director of the Ethiopia Environment Protection Agency called upon rich countries to "stop being cruel to Africa" and begin to be a part of the solution by agreeing to robust mitigation measures, generous adaptation sums without "strings attached," and technology transfers that bypass "unfair" intellectual property rights. While he often referred to the need to work together for the benefit of the planet, his intervention often lapsed into an "us vs. them" diatribe, stating at times that "we must beat them." The Director of an Ethiopian civil society NGO and recent U.S. International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) participant, Negusu Aklilu, spoke to the audience in a more measured tone. Speaking out regarding the U.S. obligation to take a leadership role in Copenhagen, he focused on scientific reporting to highlight the relevancy of a 40% carbon emission reduction figure. For more on his point of view, visit the following site: [http://www.addisfortune.com/Vol%2010%20No%20492%20Archive/Viewpoint.h tm](http://www.addisfortune.com/Vol%2010%20No%20492%20Archive/Viewpoint.htm)

¶38. (U) Public Affairs Section Outreach Event: The U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa Public Affairs Section hosted a December 1, 2009 discussion with Negusu regarding his experience in the U.S. under the IVLP. The Public Affairs section invited REO to speak as well, giving me the opportunity to highlight our office's objectives and activities to a room full of university students, non-government organization (NGO) activists, and other interested environmentalists. I also took the opportunity to address some of Negusu's climate change positions, noting that this is a global crisis that demands a global solution with all parties working together in partnership if we are to identify and achieve realistic and practical resolutions in Copenhagen.

#MEECE